

Montana Public Service Commission
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December 2, 1996
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PSC TO ARBITRATE TELEPHONE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Public Service Commission will arbitrate the unresolved issues arising from the ongoing interconnection negotiations between US West Communications and Western Wireless Corp., which does business as Cellular One, at a public hearing December 4 in Helena.

US West and Western Wireless began renegotiating their existing interconnection agreement at Western Wireless's request after the enactment of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. Parties negotiating interconnection agreements pursuant to the federal act are encouraged to do so voluntarily, but if they are unable to reach agreement on all issues, either party may request the PSC to arbitrate unresolved issues.

The open issues identified by US West and Western Wireless are:

- the rate for interconnection and the transport and termination of traffic between Western Wireless and US West;
- the amount or percentage of US West traffic that terminates on Western Wireless's network; and
- the definition of, and applicable charges for, non-local traffic.

The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. Wednesday in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue. Interested persons may submit to the PSC their brief comments limited to the unresolved issues no later than December 8.

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